

## **ELECTRONIC CONTRACTS**

### **ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION**

The invention provides a digital contract comprising a sealed package comprising:  
a header package comprising: rules defining any sealed packages to be included in said  
contract; a validating party who is to validate said header package; and a sealing party  
who is to seal said package; a body containing at least a portion of the content of the  
package; and a validating signature generated from said rules and said body according to  
a first key belonging to said validating party; any sealed packages defined in said rules;  
and a sealing signature generated from said header package and any of said sealed  
packages according to a first key belonging to said sealing party. Further provided is  
contract management software for generating, validating, exchanging and managing such  
contracts.